



Facts About the Las Vegas Wash

Member Agencies

City of Henderson
City of Las Vegas
City of North Las Vegas
Clark County
Comprehensive Planning
Clark County Conservation
District
Clark County Department
of Parks & Recreation
Clark County Health District
Clark County Regional Flood
Control District
Clark County Sanitation
District
Colorado River Commission
National Park Service
Nevada Bureau of Health
Protection Services
Nevada Division of
Environmental Protection
Nevada Division of Wildlife
Southern Nevada Water
Authority
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of
Agriculture
U.S. EPA
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
University of Nevada,
Las Vegas

Citizen Members

Basic Management, Inc.
Friends of the Desert
Wetlands
Lake Las Vegas
Las Vegas Bay Marina
Water Quality Citizens
Advisory Committee

Location: Southeast Las Vegas Valley

Length: 12 miles (headwaters - Las Vegas Bay)

Sources: Storm water runoff
Shallow ground water
Urban runoff
Clark County Sanitation District wastewater treatment plant outflows
City of Las Vegas wastewater treatment plant outflows
City of Henderson wastewater treatment plant outflows

Avg. Flow: 153 million gallons/day
(1.45% of Lake Mead inflow)

Significance: Habitat for diverse plant and animal species
Natural "finishing" filter for inflows to Lake Mead
Recreation area

Key Issues: Wetlands erosion
Ground water inflow quality
Urban runoff inflow quality
Habitat loss



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Background

In June 1997, a 21-member panel of citizens convened with the goal of identifying key concerns and issues relating to water quality in Southern Nevada. Ten months later, the Water Quality Citizens Advisory Committee emerged with nine recommendations, which it presented to the Southern Nevada Water Authority Board of Directors. Among these recommendations, which the board unanimously adopted, was an item requesting the development of a comprehensive management program for the Las Vegas Wash. The wash is a natural flow channel which carries shallow ground water, storm water, urban runoff, and treated wastewater out of the Las Vegas Valley where it discharges into the Las Vegas Bay of Lake Mead.

To ensure that this comprehensive management plan represented all stakeholders of the Las Vegas Wash, a committee was created comprising more than two dozen local, state, and federal agencies, local environmentalists, business people, and members of the public. This panel, named the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee, will oversee the development of the management plan.

Mission

The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee will evaluate all facts, issues, and concerns regarding the Las Vegas Wash in order to develop and implement a practical, comprehensive approach for managing the wash in a timely manner.

Participants (each entity has one representative unless otherwise indicated)

City of Henderson	City of Las Vegas
City of North Las Vegas	Clark County Sanitation District
Clark County Health District	Clark County Comprehensive Planning
Clark County Parks & Recreation Dept.	Clark Co. Regional Flood Control District
Clark County Conservation District	Southern Nevada Water Authority
Basic Management Inc.	Water Quality Citizens Advisory Committee (2)
Lake Las Vegas	Las Vegas Bay Marina
Friends of the Desert Wetlands	University of Nevada Las Vegas
Nevada Division of Wildlife	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Nevada State Health Division	Nevada Bureau of Health Protection Services
Colorado River Commission	National Park Service
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	U.S. Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey	U.S. Department of Agriculture

Structure

The wide scope of issues relating to the Las Vegas Wash led the committee to adopt a "study team" structure wherein members who have interest and/or expertise in a particular area may participate in a study team that will examine that specific issue. Study teams will identify and analyze key issues and concerns, and develop recommendations.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority, which was tasked by its board of directors to coordinate this effort, will provide administrative and technical support to the study teams and the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee.

Study Teams which have been established include:

- ~ Jurisdictional/Regulatory Relationships
- ~ Alternate Discharge to the Las Vegas Wash
- ~ Shallow Groundwater
- ~ Erosion/Stormwater
- ~ Wetlands Park Plan
- ~ Funding
- ~ Environmental Resources
- ~ Public Outreach
- ~ Land Use

Additional study teams may be formed by the committee as needed.

Public Input

Members of the public who want to participate in this process or ask questions of the committee may attend the meetings. Meeting schedules can be obtained by calling 892-3800 or on the Internet at www.lvwash.org
